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KICKAPOO ENVIRONMENTAL OFFICE

# The Green Clan

## Assessing Streamside Corridors on the Rez

By Kerry Wedel, Watershed Coordinator, 785-486-2601 x3

The Kansas Forest Service will be working with the Kickapoo Environmental Office and other partnering organizations to assess the condition of areas along rivers and streams (also known as riparian areas) located on the Kickapoo Reservation. This work is part of a larger project funded through the U.S. Forest Service and the National Association of State Foresters to assess riparian area condition in several watersheds surrounding the reservation. The purpose of these assessments will be to identify areas where forest protection, improvement or restoration projects and management practices are warranted. The assessment will utilize analysis of LiDAR (Light Detection and Ranging) imagery.



In addition to riparian assessments, stream bank stabilization projects will be installed on selected sites as demonstration projects. These projects will involve construction of cedar tree revetments along eroding banks of smaller streams to reduce stream bank erosion. In the picture above, cedar revetments stand between the dog and the river. For more information about this project, contact the Kickapoo Environmental Office or attend the free workshop on March 25<sup>th</sup>

## Delaware River Cedar Revetment Initiative: Free Workshop—Tuesday, March 25

The Kansas Forest Service, the Kickapoo Tribe in Kansas, the Delaware River WRAPS, and a variety of natural resource partners are embarking on an effort to reduce streambank erosion along smaller streams within the northern portion of the Delaware River watershed. To accomplish this, the project team will be promoting Cedar Tree Revetments, a unique, low-cost streambank protection practice, to landowners within portions of Atchison, Brown, Jackson, and Nemaha Counties. Cedar Tree Revetments entail anchoring cut, dead cedar trees horizontally along the base of eroding streambanks. The trees act to protect the bank from the impact of high flow events, and the dense, green foliage of cedars acts as a sediment trap – capturing sediment from the water which will actually help rebuild the streambank over time.



**The project will kick off with an introductory landowner meeting at 5:30pm on March 25.** This free event will be held at the Kickapoo Community Center—1073 Falcon Rd, Horton, KS. Experts from the Kansas Forest Service, K-State, and the KTIK will be on hand to discuss a variety of topics, including: cedar tree revetments, planting forest buffers, and managing trees along streams. The event will also inform landowners of the wide variety of cost share dollars that are available to make forestry practices happen. **Dinner will be provided, so please RSVP to Billy Beck, Kansas Forest Service, at (785) 532-3308, or [wjbeck@k-state.edu](mailto:wjbeck@k-state.edu), for a head-count.**



# The Green Clan

## An Introduction To Our Newest Team Member

By Betty Likens, Operations Associate, 785-486-2601 x 8 option 2

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Hi Everyone,

My Name is Elizabeth Likens, and I just recently joined the Kickapoo Environmental Office as the new Operations Associate. I come here with over 25 years of customer relations and office management experience. I am really excited to join the KEO and to get started in my new role.

I am a Kickapoo Tribal Member but was raised in Phoenix, Arizona. While growing up in Arizona, I spent most of my free time hiking every trail that I could find--I love the outdoors.

I was thrilled to be offered this job and look forward to the opportunity to build great new personal and professional relationships.



## Freshwater Pollution Costs the US at Least \$4.3 Billion a Year

Science Daily, November 17, 2008 (provided by Tej Attili, Water Quality Coordinator)

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Freshwater pollution impacts individuals on a level as basic as how much they spend on bottled water, said Walter Dodds, professor of biology at K-State. If you worry about what's in the tap water, you might be shelling out more money for the bottled variety, he said. If your municipal water plant has to spend more money to treat the water coming through your tap, your water bills will increase. If you own a house on a lake that is becoming increasingly polluted, your property values likely may drop. If that lake is a recreation destination, your local economy could take a hit, too.



***Pollution by phosphorus and nitrogen isn't just bad for lakes, streams and other bodies of fresh water. According to researchers at Kansas State University, it's also bad for Americans' pocketbooks.***

"Monetary damages put environmental problems in terms that make policymakers and the public take notice," Dodds said. He and the K-State researchers looked at U.S. Environmental Protection Agency data on nitrogen and phosphorus levels in bodies of water throughout the country. Ni-

trogen and phosphorus are nutrients that are applied to plants as nutrients. Dodds said that the majority of this type of pollution is from nonpoint sources --that is it's not flowing into a lake or stream like sewage outflow coming from one pipe. Rather, the nitrogen and phosphorus are reaching the water from various points, such as, for example, runoff from row crop agriculture across the surrounding countryside.

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# The Green Clan

## Freshwater Pollution Costs the US at Least \$4.3 Billion a Year

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The researchers calculated the money lost from that pollution by looking at factors like decreasing lakefront property values, the cost of treating drinking water and the revenue lost when fewer people take part in recreational activities like fishing or boating. The researchers found that freshwater pollution by phosphorus and nitrogen costs government agencies, drinking water facilities and individual Americans at least \$4.3 billion annually. Of that, they calculated that \$44 million a year is spent just protecting aquatic species from nutrient pollution. "We are providing underestimates," Dodds said. "Although our accounting of the degree of nutrient pollution in the nation is fairly accurate, the true costs of pollution are probably much greater than \$4.3 billion."

Dodds said he anticipates the research being used by policymakers because it documents the extent of the nutrient pollution problem in the United States and one facet of why it matters. "Putting environmental problems in terms of dollars allows people to account for the actual costs of pollution," Dodds said.

## Composting Leaves

By Sonny Fee, Solid Waste Coordinator, 486-2601 x4

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Composting is a simple way to add nutrient-rich humus which fuels plant growth and restores vitality to depleted soil. It's the single most important supplement you can give your garden soil. It's also free, easy to make and good for the environment.



If you have too many leaves to incorporate into your compost bin, you can simply compost the pile of leaves by itself. Locate the pile where drainage is adequate; A shaded area will help keep the pile from drying out.

The leaf pile should be at least 4' in diameter and 3' in height. Include a layer of dirt between each foot of leaves. The pile should be damp enough that when a sample taken from the interior is squeezed by hand, a few drops of moisture will appear. The pile should not be packed too tightly.

The pile will compost in 4 - 6 months, with the material being dark and crumbly. Leaf compost is best used as an organic soil amendment and conditioner; It is not normally used as a fertilizer because it is low in nutrients.

### ~ Leaf-Mould Tea

You can also use leaves to make a nutritious "tea" for your plants. Simply wrap a small pile of leaves in burlap and immerse in a garbage can or large bucket of water. Leave for three days, then remove the "tea bag" and dump contents into the compost. Scoop out the enriched water with a smaller bucket and use to water your plants and shrubs.

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*Working Together for a Better Community!*

## **Upcoming Events**

- \* **March 17—21: Community Clean Up**
- \* **March 25, 5:30pm: Workshop: Cedar Revetment Initiative**
- \* **April 8: 10 - 2pm: Community Health Fair**
- \* **April TBD: Kickapoo Earth Day Celebration—K-20 Clean Up**